

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11-20, 23, 25 and 27-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11-20, 23, 25 and 27-31 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 21, 22, 24 and 26 have been canceled.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Responsive to the Examiner's request, an Information Disclosure Statement has been filed concurrently herewith, including the Japanese patent publications as described on page 2 of the application. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement, and to confirm that the documents submitted therewith have been considered and will be cited of record in the present application.**

Drawings

Enclosed are two (2) red-inked drawing Annotated Sheets, wherein the clock direction control section in Fig. 4 has been denoted as 42, as described on page 16, lines 4-7 of the application. In Fig. 10, step S14 has been corrected as "CLOCK INPUT

WAIT", as supported on page 22, lines 20-21 of the application. Also enclosed are two (2) drawing Replacement Sheets, incorporating the above noted corrections. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and approval of the drawing Replacement Sheets.**

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection, insofar as it may pertain to the presently pending claims, is traversed for the following reasons.

The claims have been variously amended to be in better compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, in view of the Examiner's comments. In particular, claim 1 now features a testing LSI and a normal LSI. The remaining claims have been similarly amended. Claim 17 has been amended to more clearly read as a failure analysis method. Claims 18-20 have been similarly amended. The claims have also been variously amended to improve antecedent. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the pending claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and thus respectfully urges the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-4, 9, 12-20, 25 and 28-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Jinbo et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,081) in

view of the Yamauchi reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,105,156).

Claims 5-8, 10, 11, 21-24, 26 and 27 have not been rejected based upon prior art. Although Applicant does not necessarily concede that the above noted prior art rejection is proper, independent claims 1-4 have been amended to include the features of respective dependent claims 5, 6, 10 and 8, and independent claims 17-20 have been amended to include the features of respective dependent claims 21, 22, 26 and 24. Since the above noted dependent claims have not been rejected based upon prior art, current claims 1-4 and 17-20, and the corresponding claims which depend therefrom, should be allowable. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the above noted prior art rejection for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

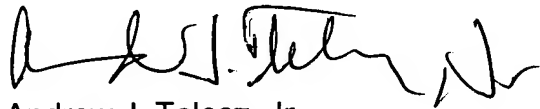
The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejections, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCO & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

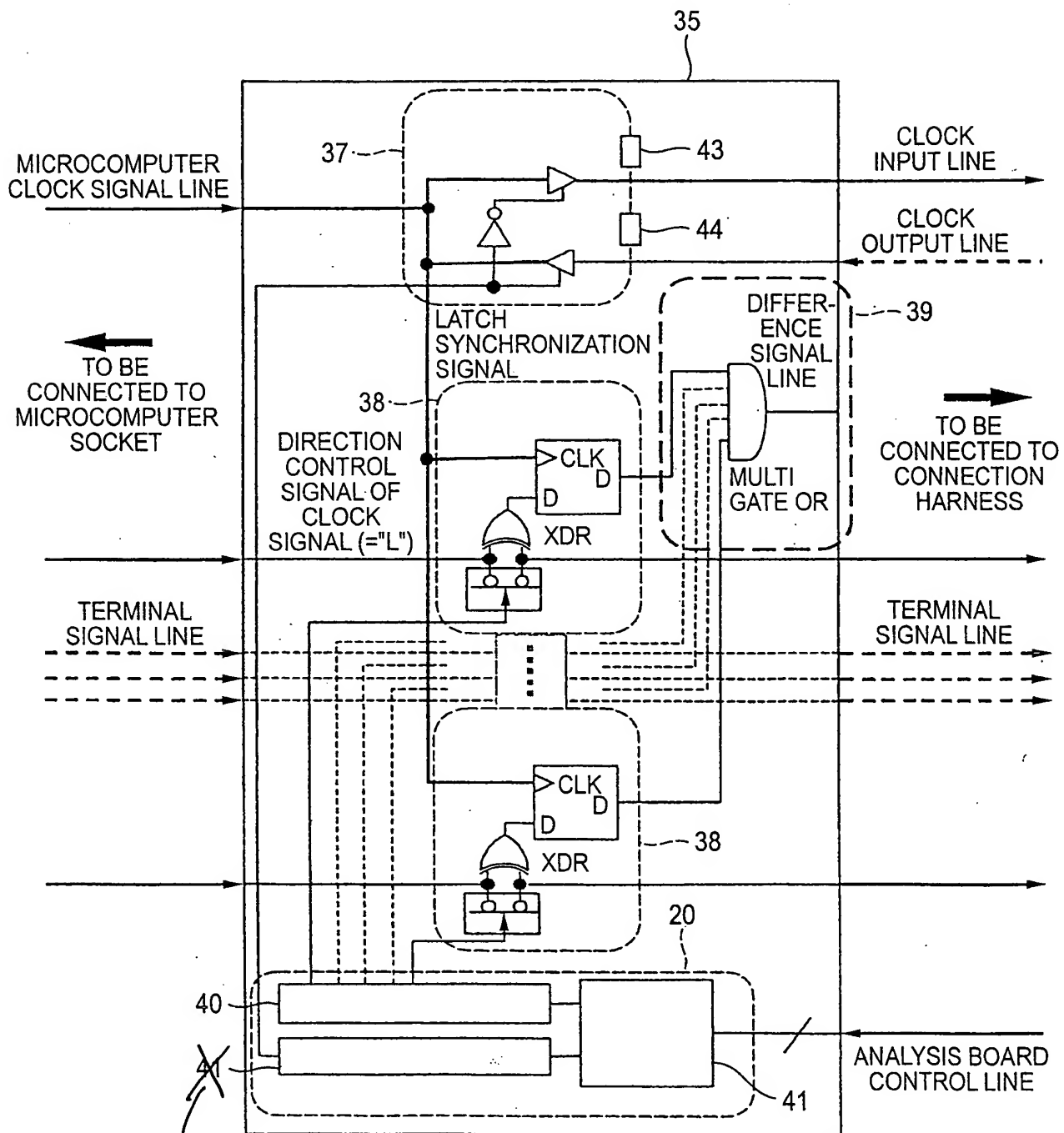
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Enclosures: Two (2) drawing Annotated Sheets
Two (2) drawing Replacement Sheets



FIG. 4



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FIG. 10

